

★ Willow Glen Relay for Life to Fight Cancer



NEWSLETTER

Councilmember Oliverio serves on the following commissions:

- San Jose 2040 General Update Task Force
- Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support
- Neighborhood Services & Education Committee
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Library Commission
- Caltrain Maintenance Facility Oversight Board
- Diridon Station Joint Power Advisory Board
- San Jose Arena Authority
- San Jose Sports Authority
- Santa Clara County Cities Association
- Sewer Advisory Board: West Valley Sanitation District & City of San Jose
- Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project
- SJ/SC Clean Water Financing Authority
- South Bay Recycled Water Liaison Committee

(please see District 6 website for updated list of commissions)

Relay for Life: Fighting Cancer

On May 15-16, residents gathered at Willow Glen High School to participate in this year's Relay for Life to help raise funds to fight cancer. They raised over \$204,000, and donations will continue to be accepted through August 31st. Please visit http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=20603&pg=entry

Pictures from the Front Page
[top row] Willow Glen Middle School Changing Our World (COW) Club Team, The Ravizza Family of the St. Pauli Girls team,
[middle row] Liz Bissonette (Survivor) and Team JBK Inc., Pam Foley, Mayor Reed, Event Chair Jenn Lesser, Councilmember Oliveiro, and father, Italo Oliverio, Paulette Reeder and Karis Clason of the San Jose Mad Hatters team,
[bottom row] Willow Glen Team HealthFIT, Team An Apple a Day: Jeanne Eiger, Leslie TenBoer, Becky Hettema)

Canoas Garden

Canoas Garden Park has received a new makeover with the help of Parks staff and 41 volunteers. The Park's improvements include additional wood chips in the playground, maintenance of overgrown ivy, newly painted garbage cans and picnic tables, removal of weeds, and litter pick-up all around the park and school.



A Peek into Historic Hanchett Park

On May 22nd, the Hanchett Park Historic Homes Tour was held, which featured five historic homes in the area. Proceeds benefited the Hanchett Park Heritage Project which raises money to reconstruct the large recognizable pillars that once marked the entrances to the Hanchett neighborhood.



Willow Glen Fountain Plaza Update

The construction of the Fountain Plaza on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Willow Street will begin this summer and is expected to be completed by mid 2012. The 41,000 square-foot project includes 18,000 square-feet of ground floor retail and 23,000 square feet of second and third-floor office space with a 108 space parking garage on the second level. During construction, businesses will remain open. For more information, please visit www.sanjoseca.gov/district6

Fresh & Easy (Bird & Minnesota)

Fresh & Easy is postponing of their two Willow Glen locations (former Albertsons at the corner of Bird and Minnesota, and the former Safeway at the corner of Almaden and Curtner). due to the current state of the economy. They are continuing to pay their lease payment for both buildings, and remain hopeful that the stores will open sometime next year as economic conditions start to improve.

Fire House 7 (800 Emory St.)

Fire House 7 in District 6 was proposed to close by city management per a management budget memo authored on May 28th. In direct violation to a city-wide policy on fire station closures which Mayor Reed, Vice Mayor Chirco and I got passed two years ago, the station's services were preserved due to the diligent efforts of Mayor Reed, my staff, and me.



Zanotto's opens in Willow Glen

The longtime Rose Garden grocery store, Zanotto's, has opened up a new location at the former PW Market on Foxworthy Avenue & Cherry Avenue in Willow Glen. The new store will be Zanotto's third location with the original store on Naglee, which opened in the 1960s, and the downtown Zanotto's on 2nd Street, opened in 1997.

Working Hard at the City



Listed are City employees, who are District 6 residents, living, working, and playing in San Jose.

(clockwise) Bill Ekern, Redevelopment Agency, Carolyn Huynh, Performance Auditor, & Kip Harkness, Strong Neighborhoods Initiative



sanjoseinside
a look inside san jose politics and culture

My Blog

www.SanJoseInside.com

Every Monday since taking office in 2007, I have been posting a "blog" on SanJoseInside.com. Since then, I have posted over 170 postings on a variety of different issues such as land use, traffic calming, public safety, parks, fiscal, and others.

In the spirit of reflection and looking to the future, I wanted to take the time to highlight some that occurred thus far in 2010

If you are not already familiar with San Jose Inside, please be sure to add <http://www.sanjoseinside.com/sji/blog/pierluigioliverio/> to your list of bookmarks and share your feedback. Feel free to browse my other postings that I was unable to share with you today.

Visit my new Facebook Page:
Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio

facebook

The Thinner Blue Line

Posted on Monday, January 25, 2010

Due to the structural budget deficit and the decline of tax revenues coming into the city, the January police academy has been postponed indefinitely. By postponing the academy the city saves money but risks neighborhood safety.

To be fair, it is a balancing act of what you would like to provide and what money you actually have on hand. However as I and others have pointed out, the city continues to spend money on items that are not in the city charter. In addition it does not require cuts in these "nice-to-have" items, as our core city departments have done in the past and must do again now. This is clearly problematic.

I think we all understand that a police force is expensive, but it is important to have fully vetted and qualified police candidates who provide safety and trust to San Jose residents. Other positions in our city may have an abundance of qualified candidates who apply, but when it comes to police there is a smaller pool with far fewer qualified applicants. It is a position that deserves to be paid well, and within the limits of what taxpayers can afford. With that said, other city staff provide value to the organization

and residents, but police put their life on the line at any given moment. One can be cynical about the old police doughnut-shop stereotype but in reality police are killed in this country every few days so there is inherent risk.

The problem with pushing out the new police academy class is that we are trying to keep up with retirements, not add additional police but just keep up. We have 80 officers retiring this year (some due to low morale) and the same number next year. It takes 18 months to get a police recruit out on the street. Our police force, much like our professional city staff, is starting to peak on retirements. There will be massive turnover in the next five to eight years for the entire city workforce.



This turnover is why 2nd Tier Pensions (benefits taxpayers can actually afford) for new hires is so important to do now. So by pushing out the academy the ratio of police to residents will decrease even more. What does that mean to you? Well maybe it is fewer police officers that are giving out speeding tickets in our neighborhoods. Maybe it is fewer officers investigating a homicide, rape or burglary. Maybe it is fewer police working on gang prevention and suppression. Certainly it will lead to more police overtime which is an additional variable cost that is tough to budget.

The Council has discretion to ensure that a police academy does occur now, as it only takes six votes. The Council in the short term could simply allocate \$4.5 million from the anti-tobacco funds (Healthy Neighborhood Venture Fund) and designate the money towards the police academy for 45 new officers. We have \$7.8 million in this

fund that has not been spent and could be directed on anything the Council wants.

Others would like to consider using these same funds to allow for more affordable housing and others would like to keep the status quo and continue to fund charities/non-profits which are not in our city charter. The remaining funds could be part of the longer term strategy to hire civilians to swap out police officers from desk duty and get them back on the street.

I cannot be everything to everyone nor can the City be everything to everyone. We have to make choices that inevitably have trade-offs and make some unhappy. I was elected to vote on issues and make tough choices.

No Soup For You! No Park For You!

Posted on Monday, February 15, 2010

On February 9, 2010, the Council tackled two agenda items related to parks. One was to apply for a state grant. There is \$184 million up for grabs for the entire state of California to be spent on city parks. California has 36 million people and San Jose has one million. If San Jose were to get 1/36th of those state funds, that would be \$5 million.

Unfortunately, San Jose will not get any special consideration for our large population since the grant is focusing on low-income communities. Even our best park projects may not fare well due to our higher income levels citywide compared to other areas of the state. The wish list San Jose park staff submitted is for \$55 million of park and trail projects.

I know the chance of state money for parks may sound exciting, but really it is sad commentary since the current council policy exempts affordable housing from paying park fees which has resulted in \$70-90 million dollar loss to the city for parks. \$70-90 million that could have purchased open space and trails so that all residents have access to a healthy community. I do not support this inequitable policy that makes us beg for a small piece of the pie when our own council policy made us lose the entire pie.

The other item was the city postponing the opening of 11 parks city-wide because there is no money to fund operations and maintenance. Residents came and spoke and asked: "Why doesn't the city outsource park maintenance, which would cost less money?"

Or "Why not let volunteers do all the maintenance."

Well, the council voted on outsourcing a few months back when a new stricter competition policy was passed by 7-4 vote that killed any chance for outsourcing (I joined the Mayor in voting no). San Jose residents do not care who maintains a park just that it is maintained.

We have had great success with the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden due to Terry Reilly's commitment to organizing volunteers to help maintain all the roses at the park. The volunteers help augment the park maintenance and do not replace park maintenance personnel. It is a partnership between volunteers and city park staff. The current council policy does not allow for volunteers to operate lawn mowers, for example, which is a big part of park maintenance at parks city wide.

Another option I have voiced is allowing housing developers who deliver a turnkey park to maintain the new park for three years at their cost. In return, however, they should be allowed to pay the market rate and be able to hire and fire the private park maintenance service as they wish. This would save the city money, provide open space to residents and ensure new parks are defect free. Unfortunately this proposal is dead on arrival since the majority of the council would not support it.

So what we are seeing with the city ripping out plant landscaping in traffic medians and not opening parks since we do not have funds to maintain either of them, is just a small appetizer when it comes to plugging a \$100 million dollar budget deficit. Remember the residents are second in this city after others get their cut. Hold on to your hats and definitely your wallets as it is going to get much worse.

When Times Get Tough, Just Borrow More Money

Posted on Monday, February 22, 2010

Mayor Reed shared a candid and honest view of city revenues and expenses at the State of the City Breakfast last week. (Personally, I miss the State of the City speeches in the evening as it led to dinner after the speech and spending money Downtown.)

As we already know the City is walking the plank, with the sharks swimming below in the ocean (sharks = bankruptcy) and a sword wielding pirate (pirate = hard choices) is forcing us to walk down the plank off the

ship. Walking back up the plank is not an option unless tough decisions are made now. However it seems that another alternative being heard more and more at city hall is borrowing.

This week the council will vote on an RDA budget that proposes to borrow \$10 million from the Park Trust Fund, Ice Center and Water Pollution Control Plant to be repaid in approximately six years. Six years of risk. What if there is a major repair needed at the Water Pollution Control Plant or the Ice Center?

Six years of not being able to make a strategic purchase of property for a park or trail connection. The Park Trust Fund comes from fees paid by housing developers who build market rate housing (affordable housing is exempt from paying park fees). In turn, they want to see their money spent on what it was intended...parks! Actually if we do not spend Park Trust Fund money within a certain amount of time the city must return the money.

The Library Parcel Tax reserves were considered for borrowing but spared since it would kill the chance of getting the voters to continue the tax in 2012. (A point I brought up at the Neighborhood Services Committee.) The alternative to borrowing this \$10 million would be to borrow this amount from the Housing Department as allowed by the State Legislature, which I support.

Borrowing of these funds today limits the city's options tomorrow when the state will grab more money from the city. If we are forced to borrow then let's do it to maintain core services like police and libraries, not more affordable housing, most of which does not pay property tax.



The City will also be issuing \$25 million in commercial paper to pay a portion of the State's raid of San Jose RDA. Commercial paper is the equivalent of a home equity line that must be paid back. The collateral for the \$25 million in commercial paper is our beautiful California Theater, home of San Jose Opera and Symphony Silicon Valley. Again the other option would be to borrow this money from the Housing Department instead of borrowing more on our equity line. Borrowing in both cases is due to the State Legislature taking \$75 million away from San Jose RDA funds.

At the budget study session last week a union lobbyist touted the idea of risky pension obligation bonds. Pension Obligation Bonds (more borrowing) are

used to fund the unfunded liability of pensions, so as to lessen the large amounts coming out of the general fund in future years when there will be losses. This year \$38 million is being transferred from the general fund to cover the pension investment losses which is equivalent to over 200 police officers or staffing for 17 fire stations or paving 24 miles of road. This arbitrage scheme would have the city issue taxable bonds at say 6 percent and then take that money and invest it with the city Retirement Funds. The hope is that the city Retirement Funds would have a greater rate of return than the 6 percent we would have to pay the bondholders. In the last 10 years the average rate of return for city Retirement Funds has been 4.4 percent. (While doing my taxes on Valentines Day I noticed my own mutual funds had returned 3.5% percent over 10 years.)

If the Retirement Fund investments do not perform over time then we could lose more money or possibly break even or make a higher return. Positive investment returns would be restricted to paying off future retirement liability. I think outside of the risk, Pension Obligation Bonds may give the council a reason to not seek second tier retirement benefits the taxpayer can afford for new employees.

The other idea suggested by the union lobbyist was bonding construction and conveyance tax (C&C) funds so that we could spend more now so cuts do not have to be as deep. There again you have to gamble on the future tax receipts and the total amount of C&C funds will shrink since you have to pay the costs associated with bonds. However this borrowing would allow the Council to avoid the question of outsourcing.

It is just another day in local government. Perhaps one way to raise money for the city is to sell bumper stickers that read, "Why do today what you can put off 'till tomorrow?"

Survey: Budget Deficit Tradeoffs Results

Posted on Monday, May 10, 2010

This year, the San Jose city council is forced to make drastic cuts. Unfortunately, the city of San Jose has had a deficit for the last decade even before the Great Recession but did not take steps to curtail the structural deficit. In fact, even without the recession, San Jose's financial obligations are significantly higher than revenues coming into the city. Most recently, the Civil Grand Jury Report (dated May 26, 2010) titled, "Cities Must Rein In Unsustainable Employee Costs" gave independent validation about the problem of the deficit which is our growing employee costs. As a result of increased costs and less revenues, current elected officials are left with

trade-offs, which equates to having to pit needed and necessary services against each other. This year the deficit is \$118 million (\$118M is MORE than the entire library, transportation, planning, code enforcement, information technology, city attorney and public works departments COMBINED).

I created a web survey to gauge feedback about what means the most to San Jose residents knowing that difficult decisions are going to be made plus allow respondents to share their thoughts on how the city can save and make money. For example, there are alternative cost savings ideas that I support like Two Tier pensions for new employees the taxpayer can afford, selling the Hayes Mansion, selling one of three golf courses, require affordable housing pay annual property taxes, outsourcing cleaning/maintenance to save money, capping 6 figure accrued sick leave payouts to name a few. These take longer to implement, however if our "City" would have considered these items when I first discussed them we would benefit from cost savings today.

The survey covered choices that needed be made by June 15. The Council and all non-union personnel have taken a 14% and 10% pay cut. The Council has requested that all of the 11 employee labor unions (98% of the workforce) match the 10% cut so we can bypass massive layoffs thus we would be able to provide expected services to residents. A 10 percent pay cut from all employees will help however we would still be left with an approximate \$60 million deficit. As of today 5 of the 11 unions have offered a 10% concession during this fiscal crisis.

Over 1,000 people participated in the survey of which 714 residents were from District 6. I promoted the survey via email, the District 6 website and my blog at www.SanJoseInside.com

Here are some of the results from District 6:

- Overwhelming majority supported outsourcing janitorial to save money to pay for core city services between 4 choices.

- Overwhelming majority supported redirecting \$10 million annually of city funds going to charities and instead spend on core city services among 4 choices

- Overwhelming majority supported maintaining police staffing at current levels even over fire department staffing: 70% to 30%

- Majority supported not cutting library hours among 4 choices however if the choice was to delay opening new libraries 1 year or cut a fire truck company then overwhelming support for fire department over new libraries: 71% to 29%.

- Increasing sales taxes was heavily opposed to upwards of 60%

- Taxing Medical Marijuana was supported by 87%

- 67% chose that all 11 labor unions take a

compensation cut to balance the budget this month instead of cutting services or raising taxes.

- Overwhelming support of Two Tier pensions for new employees 85%

- Overwhelming support of putting binding arbitration for police and fire on the ballot 86%

All of the results including over 400 written comments from respondents are available on the the District 6 website www.sanjoseca.gov/district6/ or email me for a copy at Pierluigi.Oliverio@SanJoseCA.gov

Updates on San Jose Inside Posts

BUDGET: On June 29th, the City Council approved agreements with six (out of eleven) unions, meeting the goal of a 10% reduction in total compensation and allowing the budget to take affect on July 1, 2010. The City will also continue talks with the Police and Fire bargaining groups to help offset next year's expected budget. For more info regarding the budget, please visit www.sanjoseca.gov/budget

MEDICAL CANNABIS:

- On the June 22nd Council Meeting, the City Council voted unanimously in support of the memorandum authored by myself and Mayor Reed.

- The unanimous vote allowed the City to begin regulating medical marijuana dispensaries by closing those near residences, schools, parks, daycares, community centers, parks, trails, substance abuse rehabilitation center, and other medical cannabis collectives.

- The Council will return again to this issue on August 3rd, and will review placing a November ballot measure to tax the sales of medical cannabis. (To view the Mayor and my memorandum and others pertaining to medical marijuana, please visit www.sanjoseca.gov/district6/Memos.asp



In April, I participated in Safeway's San Jose Celebrity Bagging event. In one hour, the store raised an amazing \$1,000, with a day's total of \$2,334 in honor of People with Disabilities month. Funds benefited Easter Seals, the Special Olympics, and other services for people with disabilities.

Public Safety #'s

Police & Fire Department

911=Emergency

311=Non-Emergency

PG&E Power Outage

(800)743-5000

County Emergency Services

808-7800

City of San Jose Emergency

Services Department

277-4595

City/Community Resource Numbers

City Hall Call Center

535-3500

Airport Noise Hotline

452-0707

Animal Services

578-7297

Code Enforcement

277-4528

Environmental Services

535-8550

Fraud & Audit Whistleblower

Hotline

535-8200

Parks & Recreation

535-3570

Parks Maintenance

535-3570

Planning Dept

535-3555

Recycling & Garbage

535-3515

Rose Garden Library

808-3070

Senior Assistance

297-0355

Sidewalk Grant Repair

277-3158

Street Light Repair

277-5517

Street Maintenance

277-4373

Street Sweeping

277-2571

Street Tree Permits

277-2762

Willow Glen Library

998-2053

Willow Glen Community Center

448-6400

District 6 Events

Mark your calendar! Be sure to check the website for additional dates and information on "Community Events & Meetings" at sanjoseca.gov/district6

MAY 8-OCT 3

Willow Glen Community Farmer's Market
Every Saturday
8:30AM-12:30PM
www.downtownwillowglen.org

JULY

17

Christmas in July Fundraiser
<http://www.the-alameda.com/>

AUGUST

3

National Night Out
www.sanjoseca.gov/district6

13-15

AT&T San Jose Jazz Festival
www.sanjosejazz.org

21-22

Assyrian Food Festival
www.assyrianfest.com

27-29

Italian Family Festa
www.downtownwillowglen.org

SEPTEMBER

4

Rose Garden Volunteer Day
www.friendssjrosegarden.org

9-10

Rosh Hashanah

10

COUNCILMEMBER OLIVERIO'S 4th Annual Safety Fair and Outdoor Movie
Donations will be collected for Trace Elementary School
7:00PM-9:00PM
SJ Municipal Rose Garden
www.sanjoseca.gov/district6

17-18

Yom Kippur

19

Almaden Art & Wine Festival
www.almadenwine.com

OCTOBER

West San Carlos Jamboree
<http://www.sancarlosstreet.com/index.html>

St. Martin of Tours
Rose Garden Home Tour
www.rosegardenhometour.com

Willow Glen High School Homecoming
<http://www.sjUSD.org/sites/high/WillowGlenHigh/>

Lincoln Homecoming
<http://www.sjUSD.org/school/lincoln>

Booksin Walk-A-Thon
www.sjUSD.org/school/booksin

City Hall Stair Challenge
www.sanjoseca.gov/district6

3

Rock 'N Roll Marathon
www.sanjoseca.gov/district6

10

Pumpkins in the Park
www.grpg.org

31

Silicon Valley Marathon
www.svmarathon.com

NOVEMBER

1

COUNCILMEMBER OLIVERIO'S showing of "Trashed" the documentary
City Hall Council Chambers
www.sanjoseca.gov/district6

Del Mar Homecoming
<http://www.delmar.cuhSD.org>

Santana Row Tree Lighting
<http://www.santanarow.com/>

Downtown Ice Opens
www.sjdowntown.com

City of San Jose Tree Lighting
www.sjdowntown.com

29

San Jose's Birthday
www.historysanjose.org

DECEMBER

Chanukah Menorah Lighting

Willow Glen Tree Lighting
www.downtownwillowglen.org

Alameda Tree Lighting Ceremony
www.the-alameda.com

City of San Jose Holiday Parade
www.sanjoseca.gov/district6

West San Carlos Santa's Club
www.sancarlosstreet.com

Ballet San Jose's The Nutcracker
www.balletsanjose.org

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District 6 residents, Hannah & Travis Martino & their grandparents on a visit to the District 6 office at San Jose City Hall.



300 Google Employees gardened, spread alfalfa & mulch, planted roses, swept historic fence, and painted at the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. Special thanks to the Hands On Bay Area crew.

COUNCILMEMBER PIERLUIGI OLIVERIO

4th Annual Safety Fair & Outdoor Movie

featuring

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"

Voluntary donations will be collected
for Trace Elementary's
Parent Teacher Organization to help
cover the damage from the fire.

When: Friday, September 10th
7:00PM

Where: Municipal Rose Garden



Friends of the SJ
Rose Garden

Results of the
America's Best Rose
Garden Contest will
be revealed!

Tours of the Garden
will also be available!



It's a picnic! Bring a blanket & flashlight!



Buena Vista
Del Monte
Canoas Garden
College Park
Cory

Hamann Park
Newhall
North Willow Glen
Palm Haven
Pamilar

Rose Garden
Shasta Hanchett
Sherman Oaks
Willow Glen



Alameda, West San Carlos, & Willow Glen
Business Associations



CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

& COUNCILMEMBER PIERLUIGI OLIVERIO

showing of the film "TRASHED"



***THIS IS THE STORY OF GARBAGE...
AMERICAN STYLE***

INFORMATION

**THIS FILM EXAMINES A
FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF
MODERN AMERICAN
CULTURE...THE DISPOSAL OF
WHAT OUR SOCIETY DEFINES
AS "WASTE." AT TIMES
HUMOROUS, "TRASHED"
INVESTIGATES THE AMERICAN
WASTE STREAM FAST
APPROACHING 1/2 BILLION
TONS ANNUALLY.**



**SEATING IS LIMITED,
PLEASE RSVP AT
(408) 535-4906 OR
Tina.West@sanjoseca.gov**

**DATE/TIME
MONDAY, NOV. 1, 2010
6:30PM - 8:30PM**

**LOCATION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
200 E. SANTA CLARA ST.
SAN JOSE, CA 95113**

